

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 425

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the policy of the United States at the 50th Annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 1998

Mr. METCALF submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the policy of the United States at the 50th Annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

Whereas whales have very low reproductive rates, making whale populations extremely vulnerable to pressure from commercial whaling;

Whereas whales migrate throughout the world's oceans and international cooperation is required to successfully conserve and protect whale stocks;

Whereas in 1946 the nations of the world adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which established the International Whaling Commission to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 in order to conserve and promote the recovery of whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission has designated the Indian Ocean and the ocean waters around Antarctica as whale sanctuaries to further enhance the recovery of whale stocks;

Whereas many nations of the world have designated waters under their jurisdiction as whale sanctuaries where the commercial killing of whales is prohibited, and additional regional whale sanctuaries have been proposed by nations that are members of the Commission;

Whereas 2 member nations of the Commission have taken a reservation to the Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling and have recently resumed commercial whaling operations in spite of the moratorium and the protests of other nations;

Whereas another member nation of the Commission has taken a reservation to the Commission's Southern Ocean Sanctuary and continues to conduct lethal scientific whaling in the waters of that sanctuary;

Whereas the Commission's scientific committee has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the scientific need for such lethal whaling;

Whereas the lethal take of whales under reservations to the Commission's policies has been increasing annually;

Whereas there continue to be indications that whale meat is being traded on the international market despite a ban on such trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and that the meat may be originating in one of the member nations of the Commission; and

Whereas 1998 is the International Year of the Ocean and the Commission plays a leading role in global efforts to improve the state of the world's oceans: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that—

3               (1) at the 50th annual meeting of the Inter-  
4       national Whaling Commission in Oman the United  
5       States should—

6               (A) remain firmly opposed to any resump-  
7       tion of commercial whaling;

8               (B) initiate and support efforts at the  
9       Commission to ensure that all activities con-  
10      ducted under reservations to the Commission's  
11      moratorium or whale sanctuaries are ceased;

12              (C) oppose the lethal taking of whales for  
13      scientific purposes unless such lethal taking is  
14      specifically authorized by the scientific commit-  
15      tee of the Commission;

16              (D) seek the Commission's support for spe-  
17      cific efforts by member nations to end illegal  
18      trade in whale meat; and

19              (E) support the permanent protection of  
20      whale populations through the establishment of  
21      whale sanctuaries in which the commercial kill-  
22      ing of whales is prohibited; and

- 1           (2) make full use of all appropriate diplomatic
- 2 mechanisms, relevant international laws and agree-
- 3 ments, and other appropriate mechanisms to imple-
- 4 ment the goals set forth in paragraph (1).

